

## SISTERS' DEPARTMENT.

Proceedings of State Convention  
of S. S. C. E.  
MARYLAND.

In pursuance of the call of the President, the Branch Societies for Christian Endeavor of the State of Maryland met in Funkstown on Monday June, 10.

After singing hymns 1 and 219, Rev. E. B. Shaver led in prayer and Rev. Joshua Long read a scripture lesson.

Sister Jane Bentz extended a hearty and warm welcome to all, which was responded to by Laura E. N. Grossnickle. The State President, Sister Anna Emmert gave a statement of the work of the society, its organization, membership, funds, etc.

Dr. V. M. Reichard gave us earnest words of sympathy and encouragement in our work.

'Woman's Work' was then opened by Laura E. N. Grossnickle, Essays on the subject were read by Sisters Minnie K. Wagner and Mollie Farhney, followed by a general discussion of the subject by Brethren Shaver, Long, Farhney, Reichard and Sister Anna Emmert.

'Plans for raising money for church work' was discussed by Sisters Emmert and Grossnickle. Among the plans discussed were, that of setting aside a sum of money and endeavoring by judicial investment to multiply it, even a hundred fold, if possible; the mite box to receive the thank offering for special blessings received from our heavenly Father; and the 'Do-without' plan, denying ourselves some coveted pleasures and contributing their cost to the Lord's treasury.

The disposition to be made of the money in branch treasuries after remittances are made' was next discussed. Subject opened by Laura Grossnickle. So many places were named where it would be gladly and gratefully received and might yield rich results that Sister Emmert was led to wish it were thousands of dollars instead of the small sum of about twenty-five cents. As it is easier to decide what to do with money on hand, than how to raise more, after a short, but hearty and animated discussion by Sister Emmert, Brethren Reichard, Fahrney, Emmert and others, it was decided that \$5 be donated to Orphan's Endowment Fund, and the rest to the suffering brethren of Johnstown.

The time for next state meeting was left to be decided at some future time.

After singing 'Shall we meet' and prayer, a collection was taken up and we were dismissed with a benediction and all went away encouraged and strengthened for future effort.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE,  
Secretary.

## Address of Welcome.

BY MRS. JANE BENTZ.

Ladies and Friends:—To me is assigned the pleasant duty of welcoming you, and though I appreciate the honor, I feel that there are others here better qualified than I. However, my inability will make my feeble utterance none the less sincere.

This occasion we have all brightly anticipated, and it is scarcely necessary to assure you how highly gratified we are to have you with us; how delighted to see so many present, how gladly we bid you a hearty welcome. Some of us are strangers to each other and yet not strangers; for are we not all members of the same household of faith, united by the ties of love and sympathy for the same cause, and laboring for the same loved church? We welcome you most heartily and sincerely to Funkstown, and pray that we may here, with the help of the Heavenly Father, lay the foundation of a monument that shall be more enduring than marble. We welcome you to our heart's overflowing with kind greetings, and to our homes the doors of which are not ajar, but swing wide open to receive you. I trust our meetings here will be such that by and by, in the years to come, we may look back upon this occasion as a Holy Bethel in our pilgrimage. Many queries arise, as we thus convene to review the past and peer into the future, and to these queries each individual heart must reply. How many golden opportunities have we neglected? How many good intentions have been buried in oblivion; talents grown rusty, energies dormant, which, had they been properly utilized, would have produced grand results?

Oh, for a baptism of the Holy Spirit, such as shall enable us to make a complete renunciation of self, and renewed consecration of all our powers to the service of our Master. Let earnest prayers arise that the uninterested and careless ones may soon become devoted laborers in the Lord's harvest field, for there is no time for idling. Our day is flying, the shadows of night are fast falling, and what if the eleventh hour should strike, after having been all the day idle, a lifetime of opportunities unimproved, a judgment come, and our work undone; forced to stand at the bar of heaven, and the withering reproof, 'Inasmuch as ye did it not.' Our Saviour's command is, 'go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,' and though not essential that every one should literally go to some foreign land, or even to the frontier in our home field, yet our duty lies in upholding the hands of the faithful few, who are as beacon lights to many storm-tossed souls. We can fulfill our mission by a pure Christian life, by a prayerful interest in the glorious cause, by freely giving of our means, and earnest efforts to influence others to do likewise. If we can not be Martins to go out and serve, then let us be true Marys, for we women have a special work. God has given us a heritage, and should we be false to our trust? Sisters, are you all-shining for Jesus? Oh, that unmeasurable

love of Christ. Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor that we through his poverty might become rich. Do we appreciate his great sacrifice? Truly not, if we do not feel a deep lasting indebtedness and rejoice that he has so honored us in permitting us to be co-workers with him in his vineyard.

Oh, if our finite minds could only realize the vastness of the field, and the need of laborers, surely there would be more denying of self, more free-will offerings. Freely we have received, should we not freely give? How easy it is to spend a dollar for self, but when God asks the same how difficult sometimes to spare it. Time and again have we heard the cry, 'Come and help us! The fields are white, the harvest is plenteous, and the laborers are few,' and yet we have been so long at ease in the oasis, as it were, while all around in the desert poor souls have perished for the water of life. Let us now arise fully to our responsibility. Let us lay ourselves on the altar, crying, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? and though it be the widow's mite, or the cup of cold water, yet if given for His sake we will not lose the reward.

We are yet but on the threshold of our existence as a Christian Endeavor, and if our light now be only the glimmer of a distant star, we feel assured it will grow brighter and more steadfast, as the flame of love and zeal lights up our souls. Oh, sisters, do not our hearts burn within us and tingle with shame that we have been so long idle and indifferent?

Let us improve our latent talents; if we have but one, let us use that for God's glory, looking and longing for the glorious day when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. And when our mission here is ended and the summons, 'come up higher' reaches us, may we be welcomed with the joyful words, 'she hath done what she could.'

Once more to the pleasant duty assigned me. We welcome you as sisters in the blessed relationship of our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, through whom we are joint heirs to the inheritance that perisheth not. We welcome you as Christians, and pray that we may never, by word or deed, prove unworthy of that title of honor.

And finally, we welcome you as officers and members of the Woman's Christian Endeavor, feeling deeply grateful to our Heavenly Father that he has showered upon us such great blessings and crowned even our feeble efforts with such success. God grant, ere many years elapse, the Church and Christian Endeavor shall be that of one grand society; for there is room for all, there is need of all, there is work for all, a welcome, a warm welcome for all.

## Response by Laura E. N. Grossnickle.

Mrs. President, Sisters of the Christian Endeavor and Friends: We have listened with pleased interest to the cordial greeting and hearty welcome extended to us by this society, through our sister, and in return we tender you our grateful acknowledg-

ments, and assure you of our hearty appreciation of the pleasant greetings of our sister workers in this assembled body, and also of these silent friends, (the flowers)—silent, yet in their rich profusion, and varied beauty, speaking so forcibly to our hearts.

Since the organization of our State Board for Christian Endeavor, we have looked forward to this, our first state meeting, with fond anticipations of Christian pleasure, and if the further exercises of the afternoon are as enjoyable as the happy welcome we have received, we shall, as the years roll by, ever look back to this day as a green and verdant spot in our memory, nor shall it be forgotten till the urn of memory shall have emptied its contents into the vase of forgetfulness.

The representatives of three branch societies for Christian Endeavor, each as yet in its infancy, we meet you here today for mutual help and encouragement, and to dedicate and consecrate ourselves anew to Christ, and to faithful, earnest effort for his cause. In our separate, organizations we have endeavored, with faithful hearts and earnest souls, to strengthen the bond of love that binds Christian beliefs together, and to hold up a beacon light to win wanderers home to the Father's love. And though we have not always accomplished as much as our hearts desired, and though we have met some discouragements, and that too, from those from whom we had a right to expect only help and encouragement, yet we have felt that God's beautiful love was bending over us from the skies, and his bright bow of promise was lighting our hearts with beautiful tints of hope.

Sometimes when tempted to feel almost as sorrowful and despirited as the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, because of discouragements, and lack of co-operation on the part of those from whom we had expected earnest, faithful effort, we have looked upward, and we have felt our hearts glow within us as He talked with us by the way. Thus strengthened we have gone forth with renewed zeal and fresh courage, and he has blessed our efforts until we have felt to shout with Miriam, 'O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath triumphed gloriously.'

Bound together by a common bond of love that distance can neither weaken nor break, we come here today for interchange of thought, to form and develop plans for future work, and to gather fresh force and strength for the promotion of the cause so dear to us. Looking down through the dim vista of future years, hope pictures for the Maryland organization of Christian Endeavor a grand march onward, forward and upward, with the banner of Christ Jesus floating proudly o'er us.

In behalf of those to whom you have extended such a hearty and impressive welcome, I again return our most sincere and hearty thanks, and assure you by gospel authority, that in thus welcoming and entertaining us, you also welcome and entertain a royal guest, for 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me,' are the words of our anointed King.

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